Rajatgarh-Barang, Titlagarh-Lanjigarh, Rahama-Paradeep doublings, Napada-Gunupur gauge conversion.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Onion shortage

285. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country had been experiencing shortage of onions for the last ten months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the production of onions had suffered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was, however, 10 per cent short supply of onion in the market during the month of October, 2005. Shortage of onion was due to unseasonal rains in States of Maharashtra and Gujarat adversely which affected the storage of previous rabi crop and also reduced the production in kharif 2005 by about 1.00 lakh ton.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Production of kharif onion in the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra had suffered due to unseasonal rains in October, 2005 which reduced the production by about 1.00 lakh ton.

Flood/Drought assistance to States

†286. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States hit by floods or flood like situation or were affected by drought during this year;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the loss of life and property in the States affected by drought or floods;

(c) the amount of financial help demanded by the affected States from the Central Government and the actual amount given to these States, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for not giving the help according to the demand and whether the remaining amount of help is likely to be given in future, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) No Memorandum for assistance for drought in the wake of South-West Monsoon, 2005 has been received from any State Government. Jharkhand has, however, declared drought in 22 Districts while Government of Andhra Pradesh have also notified continued drought conditions in 644 Mandals. The extent of loss, if any, have so far not been reported by these States.

Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for matters relating to floods and necessary information is being collected from them.

Prices of Onions

287. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the prices of onion skyrocketed throughout India from September, 2005, cheap onions rotted in godowns in Rajathan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the hoarders who created shortage in supply of onions; and

(d) the reasons for which Government had not taken steps to procure and supply cheap Rajasthan onions throughout the country to bring down prices of onions?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No Sir. No such instance of rotting of cheap onions in godowns in Rajasthan has been reported by the Government of Rajasthan.

(b) Does not arise.